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RESEARCH PRODUCTION IN 1981

A. Four (Three?) Stages

1. Identify major research themes
 2. Develop these in more detail: significant questions to be addressed
 3. Translate into intelligence tasks
 4. Match those with research resources
- (#2 could be collapsed into #1 or #3 into #2)

B. Kinds of Themes (aside from unforeseeable ones, e.g., Afghanistan)

1. Obvious subjects automatically laid on (e.g., Soviet military forces, China)
2. Non-obvious or less-obvious subjects - involving risk-taking - they should help in doing obvious ones better, or in anticipating unforeseeables, or are independently worthwhile. (Note that non-obvious subjects might be identified regarding aspects of obvious subjects, e.g., are there interesting questions about Soviet conventional forces we have not studied?)

Examples of non-obvious subjects:

- a. Present and future vulnerabilities of selected countries to economic sanctions. And: Present and future capabilities of selected countries to impose economic sanctions
- b. Annual survey of "base facilities" for long-distance military deployment and intervention (US and SU)

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C. Procedure

Stage I

1. Invite Office Directors and NIOs to propose major themes
 - a. Invite others?
2. Confer with Office Directors and NIOs (singly, jointly, both?) to develop list

Stage II

Confer with subject-matter groups to develop themes and translate them into intelligence tasks

Stage III

Match with research resources - make decisions



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